

Report of the Committee on the Formation of a Board of Missionary Studies for North America,

Appointed by The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America.

JUNE 15, 1911.

*To the Boards and Societies Represented in The Foreign Missions' Conference of
North America:*

You will recall that one of the most important proposals which came before The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America last January related to the establishment of A Board of Missionary Studies. This proposal had its immediate origin in recommendations submitted by Commission V of The World Missionary Conference 1910 on "The Preparation of Missionaries." The report of that Commission contained the following summary:

"The evidence laid before the Commission has shown that there is a practically unanimous recognition of the need for more specialized preparation of missionaries for their work and for their particular mission field. The preparation is taken to include (1) a literary and scientific study of languages, (2) a knowledge of the religious history and sociology of special races, (3) acquaintance with the general principles and laws of missionary enterprise and method. The unanimity and earnestness of the testimony submitted on this matter has been impressive, and indeed irresistible in its cogency. It is impossible to doubt the existence of a real and urgent necessity, and its special character has been emphasized and defined in the preceding chapter.

"It is equally clear that the necessity cannot be adequately met by existing institutions, or by Societies separately. Although we have urged strongly that in all Theological Colleges and Seminaries more should be done than at present for the special training of those of the students who are preparing for the foreign field, such work will always be limited by the resources of these institutions, and also by the fact that the great majority of their students are preparing for the home ministry. Nor could any one Society undertake to equip and maintain a Missionary College such as is required except on a small scale. The co-operation

of Missionary Societies is essential, and it is a hopeful and guiding sign that while the necessity of which we speak is recognized on every hand, there have been very numerous and spontaneous indications of a desire for co-operation on the part of experienced representatives of many Societies and Churches.

“This specialized training can only properly be given to those who have already received a liberal education; it must be of the nature of post-graduate study. It would therefore not interfere with the general training which the Societies prescribe for their candidates, nor with the special Church training which each Society holds to be essential. It would meet a common need, and would form an invaluable supplement to present arrangements and to existing institutions. . . .

“Accordingly in the devout and glad hope of results some of which are within sight, we propose to the Conference that it should institute a Board of Missionary Studies, the general purpose of which shall be to supply guidance and to render assistance to Missionary Societies in the preparation of missionaries for their work. The duty of the Board shall be to acquaint itself with all available means for the study of missionary subjects, with the facilities provided at the different universities, colleges, and seminaries, with the work of professors, lecturers, and teachers, and with all details which may enable Societies to direct the work of students in their preparation. The Board would be able to act, when desired, as an advisory Body for Missionary Societies and Colleges, for seminaries and individual missionaries, both as to particulars, such as where a special language could best be studied, and also as to general matters, such as the best curriculum of training for special types of Mission work. While at first the functions of such a Board would be mainly advisory, it might be expected to reach a position in which it could take important and helpful action by organizing teaching in subjects not otherwise provided for, either permanently or temporarily, and by promoting the co-operation of Societies and Colleges in affording facilities to students. By ascertaining the special teaching provided at different institutions it might be enabled to secure co-ordination, or, at any rate, to convey information, and to make it possible that the special advantages afforded by one institution should be made available as widely as possible.

“Further, if, as we earnestly desire, some of the proposed schemes for Centers of Study at home and in the field are carried into effect, the Board would be able to supply information about them to the Societies, and to give counsel both to the Societies and to individual missionaries as to the most profitable employment of furlough for study and research and as to other kindred subjects. While the need for such a Board is well illustrated in Great Britain by the proposal to found a School of Oriental Studies, the advantages which a Board would confer upon missionary training would be of a much wider reach, and a similar Board would be of equal value in any country where missionary enterprise is active. If Boards were formed in the United States, Canada, Germany, and elsewhere, they would be enabled, by consultations with one another, to advance the whole cause of missionary study and preparation. Together or separately they might prepare a Year Book of Missions which would give clear and full information on matters of common interest; and they might further the preparation and publication of missionary text-books, the urgent need for which is universally recognized. . . .

“Leaving each Society free to train its candidates in its own way, it (the proposed Board) would be the servant of all Societies, furnishing each with such information and guidance as might from time to time be requested. Its wide outlook would enable it to judge as to the subjects that require investigation, and the courses of study that could be profitably pursued. Being in close and friendly relation to centers of missionary study all over the world, it could point out to them considerations that ought to be taken into account, and receive from them the results of their experience and research, and so would stimulate and concen-

trate all efforts in missionary study. It would also be of immense use to those who at home are guiding the educational policy of the different Missionary Societies, and it might put the professors, lecturers, and tutors of Colleges and Seminaries in the way of obtaining the knowledge they so much need for the wise and statesmanlike execution of their important duties.

"We believe that in these and many other ways the institution of such a Board of Study as we recommend would, with God's blessing, supply a channel which would disseminate and perpetuate the benefits of the World Missionary Conference."

The Continuation Committee appointed by The World Missionary Conference presented this recommendation of Commission V with a strong endorsement to the Boards and Societies of Great Britain and North America. The British Societies have already approved it and a Board of Study for that country has been constituted with an influential membership and every prospect of large usefulness. In North America, The Committee of Reference and Counsel was requested to take up the matter, and after careful consideration it embodied a recommendation on the subject in its annual report to The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America, January 12, 1911. The Conference unanimously adopted the recommendation and appointed a Committee of Nineteen, including the twelve members of The Committee of Reference and Counsel, with power to take all necessary steps for the creation of such a Board of Studies. This Committee met January 13th, carefully considered the whole question, and appointed a sub-committee of five to work out details of organization and report at a meeting to be held June 8th. The Committee convened again on the latter date and devoted the entire day to the report of its sub-committee and the organization and membership of the Board. After full discussion, the following Constitution was unanimously adopted:

Constitution of The Board of Missionary Studies.

I. NAME

The Board shall be called "The Board of Missionary Studies for North America."

II. AIM

The Board of Missionary Studies shall have for its aim to secure the most adequate kind and quality of preparation for those who are in training for foreign missionary service.

III. ORGANIZATION

1. The Board of Missionary Studies shall be appointed by and responsible to The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America.

2. It shall be composed of not more than thirty-six members, who shall be appointed for not over three years. At the first appointment they shall be arranged in three groups appointed for one, two and three years, respectively. Members shall be eligible for re-election.

3. All vacancies shall be filled by The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America from nominations made by The Board of Missionary Studies, except that vacancies occurring during the year may be filled by the Executive Committee of the Board to serve until the next meeting of The Foreign Missions' Conference.

4. The officers of The Board of Missionary Studies shall consist of a Chairman and a Secretary, who shall be appointed by The Foreign Missions' Conference on the nomination of the Board from the members of the Board, and who shall be members *ex-officio* of the Executive Committee of the Board.

5. The Board of Missionary Studies shall appoint annually an Executive Committee of seven in addition to the officers above named, making nine in all, whose duties shall be to carry out the aims of the Board under the methods hereinafter defined, and to report its transactions in full to the Board.

6. The Board shall hold an annual meeting at which it shall hear the annual report of its Executive Committee, consider all matters proper to its general aim, appoint its Executive Committee for the following year, and prepare its own annual report to the Conference. Other meetings of the Board may be held at the call of the Executive Committee. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

7. The Board shall have the power to create special co-operating committees, to include persons not members of the Board, for the purpose of making specific investigations or carrying out specific and temporary projects, the chairman in each case to be appointed from the members of the Board.

IV. METHODS

1. The Board shall urge the importance and need of special missionary preparation as emphasized in the Report of Commission V to The World Missionary Conference 1910.

2. The Board, through its Executive Committee and its officers, shall enter into correspondence with similar Boards in Europe, with Missionary Boards, with Theological Seminaries and Colleges, with Missionary Training Schools, with missionary leaders at home and abroad, and with institutions for special missionary preparation on the field, to discover both what is being done and what ought to be done for the best equipment of the missionary.

3. It shall maintain correspondence with Missionary Boards for the purpose of acquiring information and affording aid in the adequate preparation of prospective missionaries.

4. It shall be ready to assist young men and women who desire information and advice regarding the best way in which they individually may acquire the training necessary for their respective forms and fields of missionary service, in harmony with the policy and plans of the several Boards concerned.

5. It shall be ready to advise with the officers and teachers of Theological Seminaries and Colleges and Special Missionary Training Schools, regarding the subjects and methods of missionary preparation, to help them in finding suitable teachers or lecturers.

6. It shall be ready to advise with missionaries on furlough, who have strength and inclination for the pursuit of studies which they feel important for their future work, as to the best manner of fulfilling their desire.

V. AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America, provided a written notice shall have been given to The Board of Missionary Studies and all the Boards and Societies represented in the Conference at least three months in advance.

It will be noted that the Constitution provides that the Board of Studies shall be appointed by and be responsible to The Foreign Missions' Conference of

North America. The Committee regarded this as vital. The candidates are to be trained for the service of the Societies, and it is therefore not only desirable but absolutely necessary that the Board of Studies should be kept in the closest possible touch with the Societies, that its membership should include a due proportion of their administrative officers, and that The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America, which is composed of representatives of the Societies, should have full control of the Board—appointing its members, choosing its Chairman and Secretary, and supervising its work.

To avoid delay in the organization of the proposed Board, The Foreign Missions' Conference of 1911 "empowered" our Committee "to take any action which it might consider desirable for the creation of such a Board." We have therefore constituted the Board, so that it may be able to formulate definite measures and submit them to The Foreign Missions' Conference of 1912. The task of selection was not easy, for the Board is intended to serve half a hundred Boards and Societies of Foreign Missions, a number of interdenominational agencies, several kinds of educational institutions and all parts of the United States and Canada. It was manifestly impossible to give each of these many interests a representative without making a Board of impracticable size. We could only bear in mind the principle that if the Board is to be a balanced working body and avoid partial views, it must be a composite of administrators, educators, specialists in certain departments, men, women, Canadians and Americans; and that each member must be a recognized authority on some phase of the work to be done. It will readily be seen that there was no lack of material and that the difficulty was to keep the list within the required limit. The result of our study was the selection of the following, leaving to the next meeting of The Foreign Missions' Conference the arrangement of their terms in classes in accordance with section 3, paragraph 2 of the Constitution:

The Rev. JAMES L. BARTON, D.D.
 The Rev. HARLAN P. BEACH, D.D.
 Prof. O. E. BROWN
 Prof. MARTIN G. BRUMBAUGH,
 Prof. ERNEST DEWITT BURTON
 Miss HELEN CALDER
 The Hon. SAMUEL B. CAPEN, LL.D.
 The Rev. WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN, Ph.D.
 The Rev. CHARLES R. ERDMAN, D.D.
 The Rev. HENRY W. FROST
 LUTHER HALSEY GULICK, M.D.
 The Rev. F. P. HAGGARD, D.D.
 Pres. HENRY C. KING, D.D.
 Prof. GEORGE W. KNOX, D.D.
 The Rt. Rev. ARTHUR S. LLOYD, D.D.
 The Rev. W. DOUGLAS MACKENZIE,
 D.D.
 The Rev. R. P. MACKAY, D.D.

Prof. W. W. MOORE, D.D.

JOHN R. MOTT, LL.D.
 The Rev. E. Y. MULLINS, D.D.
 The Rev. T. R. O'MEARA, D.D.
 Pres. C. T. PAUL
 Mrs. HENRY W. PEABODY
 Dean WILFORD L. ROBBINS, D.D.
 The Rev. G. A. JOHNSTON ROSS, D.D.
 Dean JAMES E. RUSSELL, LL.D.
 T. H. P. SAILER, Ph.D.
 Mrs. A. F. SCHAUFFLER
 The Rev. T. E. EGERTON SHORE, M.A.
 ROBERT E. SPEER, D.D.
 The Rev. JOHN H. STRONG, D.D.
 Mr. F. P. TURNER
 The Rev. HOMER C. STUNTZ, D.D.
 Miss ADDIE GRACE WARDLE
 The Rev. WILBERT W. WHITE, D.D.
 The Rev. CHARLES R. WATSON, D.D.

We have designated the Rev. W. Douglas Mackenzie, D.D., LL.D., to act as Chairman and Mr. F. P. Turner to act as Secretary until the next meeting of

The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America, when officers will be elected according to section 3, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.

It will be observed that in addition to the close and vital relation which the Constitution and personnel of the Board establish between The Board of Missionary Studies and The Foreign Missions' Conference of North America, the Conference controls, from year to year, elections to membership on the Board, and also has power to amend the Constitution to meet any special conditions which may arise. This preliminary announcement is made to apprise the Boards and Societies represented in the Conference of what our Committee has done in acting upon the instructions of the last Conference.

During the deliberations of our Committee, and especially during a devotional half hour conducted by Dr. Mott, the truth was emphasized that the proposed Board of Studies must serve as an agency for the discovery not merely of a more efficient and intellectual equipment for future missionaries but also of a richer spiritual preparation for a service which is supremely spiritual in its character and aim. Only through prayer can The Board of Missionary Studies realize the high ideals of its appointment, and we earnestly invite the co-operation and special prayer of all the friends of Foreign Missions in behalf of this movement which appears to promise so much for the cause of Christ.

(Signed) ARTHUR J. BROWN, *Chairman*

FRED P. HAGGARD, *Secretary*

THOMAS S. BARBOUR

JAMES L. BARTON

HARLAN P. BEACH

PAUL DE SCHWEINITZ

CHARLES R. ERDMAN

ALFRED GANDIER

W. HENRY GRANT

WALTER R. LAMBUTH

ARTHUR S. LLOYD

ROBERT P. MACKAY

W. DOUGLAS MACKENZIE

ALEXANDER MCLEAN

JOHN R. MOTT

T. H. P. SAILER

T. E. EGERTON SHORE

HOMER C. STUNTZ

F. P. TURNER

CHARLES R. WATSON

Committee.

